

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A microwavable cooking apparatus for cooking bacon and the like, comprising:

a container, said container having at least one container sidewall, an inner and outer surface, an open end, and a laterally projecting rim at the open end defining a rim undersurface;

a lid, said lid including a body having a top wall dimensioned to extend across and close the open end of said container; and

a cooking rack consisting of a plurality of radially extending vanes, said rack being dimensioned to fit within said container.

2. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top wall of said lid includes at least one bore wall defining a centrally located bore extending perpendicularly through said lid.

3. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 2, wherein said bore wall includes a plurality of laterally extending tabs positioned within said bore.

4. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein a portion of the top wall of said lid is substantially dome-shaped.

5. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein a handle is connected to said lid.

6. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 5, wherein a first portion of said handle projects laterally from said lid and a second portion of the handle projects downward from the distal end of said first portion of said handle.

7. (Currently Amended) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein a plurality of container locks are mounted on said lid for movement between a locked position and an unlocked position, ~~said container locks being positioned such that in the unlocked position a container may be positioned in engagement with the lid or removed from~~

~~engagement with the lid, said container locks being positioned to move from an unlocked position into a locked position to engage the undersurface of said rim when the container is positioned in engagement with the lid.~~

8. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 7, wherein said container locks each include a cam section to engage and force said rim against the lid in the locked position of the container locks.

9. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 7, wherein said lid includes an outer sidewall extending outwardly from the periphery of said top wall, a lock mount for each container lock mounted on said outer wall and extending outwardly therefrom, a cam opening formed in said outer wall adjacent to said lock mount, each said container lock being mounted for pivotal movement on said lock mount and including a cam section which extends through the cam opening in said outer wall, said cam section operating to engage the undersurfaces of said rim against said body in the locked position of the container lock.

10. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 7, wherein each said container lock includes an operating lever connected to pivot said container lock between the locked and unlocked positions.

11. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 10, wherein said operating lever includes clasp dimensioned to securely engage the outer sidewall of said lid, when said container lock is in the locked position.

12. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of radially extending vanes are spaced substantially equidistant from one another.

13. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 12, wherein the plurality of vanes comprising said rack include an upwardly extending stem dimensioned to fit within said bore.

14. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 13, wherein said

stem is comprised of a plurality of a radially extending vanes, said plurality of radially extending vanes being dimensioned to fit between said tabs and secure said lid to said container.

15. (Original) A microwavable cooking apparatus for cooking bacon and the like, comprising:

an outer container, said outer container having at least one container sidewall, an inner and outer surface, an open end and a laterally projecting rim at the container open end defining a rim undersurface;

an inner container, said inner container having at least one container sidewall, an inner and outer surface, and an open end and dimensioned to fit within said outer container;

a lid, said lid including a body having a top wall dimensioned to extend across and close the open end of said container; and

a cooking rack consisting of a plurality of radially extending vanes, said rack being dimensioned to fit within said inner container.

16. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein said outer container covers a predefined portion of said inner container, and wherein a microwave reflecting surface is positioned between said outer container and said inner container.

17. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 16, wherein a vacuum seal is formed between said outer container and said inner container.

18. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein the top wall of said lid includes at least one bore wall defining a centrally located bore extending perpendicularly through said lid.

19. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 18, wherein said bore wall includes a plurality of laterally extending tabs positioned within said bore.

20. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein a portion of the top wall of said lid is substantially dome-shaped.

21. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein a handle is connected to said lid.

22. (Original) The microwavable apparatus of claim 21, wherein a first portion of said handle projects laterally from said lid and a second portion of the handle projects downward from the distal end of said first portion of said handle.

23. (Currently Amended) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein a plurality of container locks are mounted on said lid for movement between a locked position and an unlocked position, ~~said container locks being positioned such that in the unlocked position a container may be positioned in engagement with the lid or removed from engagement with the lid, said container locks being positioned to move from an unlocked position into a locked position to engage the undersurface of said rim when the container is positioned in engagement with the lid.~~

24. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein said container locks each include a cam section to engage and force said rim against the lid in the locked position of the container locks.

25. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein said lid includes an outer sidewall extending outwardly from the periphery of said top wall, a lock mount for each container lock mounted on said outer wall and extending outwardly therefrom, a cam opening formed in said outer wall adjacent to said lock mount, each said container lock being mounted for pivotal movement on said lock mount and including a cam section which extends through the cam opening in said outer sidewall, said cam section operating to engage the undersurfaces of said rim against said body in the locked position of the container lock.

26. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 23, wherein each said container lock includes an operating lever connected to pivot said container lock between the locked and unlocked positions.

27. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 26, wherein said operating lever includes clasp dimensioned to securely engage the outer sidewall of said lid when said container lock is in the locked position.

28. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of radially extending vanes are spaced substantially equidistant from one another.

29. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of vanes comprising said rack include an upwardly extending stem dimensioned to fit within said bore.

30. (Original) The microwavable cooking apparatus of claim 29, wherein said stem is comprised of a plurality of a radially extending vanes, said plurality of radially extending vanes being dimensioned to fit between said tabs and secure said lid to said container.

31. (Currently Amended) A: method for microwave cooking bacon and the like, comprising the steps of:

suspending strips of bacon ~~in spaced relationship~~ on radially extending vanes within a microwave permeable container to the bottom wall of an enclosed microwave permeable container; and

subjecting the container and bacon strip to microwave energy.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said container includes a microwave reflecting surface embedded on or within the sides at least one of the side and the bottom of said container.

33. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cooking rack is suspended from said lid.

34. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein said cooking rack is suspended from said lid.

35. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein two container locks are mounted on said lid for movement between a locked position and an unlocked position, said container locks being positioned such that in the locked position the container sidewall has an elliptical distortion.

36. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein two container locks are mounted on said lid for movement between a locked position and an unlocked position, said container locks being positioned such that in the locked position the container sidewall has an elliptical distortion.

37. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least one laterally projecting arm is coupled to at least one of said plurality of container locks, and wherein said at least one laterally projecting arm engages at least one of the container sidewall and the container rim when the lock is in the locked position.

38. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 23, wherein at least one laterally projecting arm is coupled to at least one of said plurality of container locks, and wherein said at least one laterally projecting arm engages at least one of the container sidewall and the container rim when the lock is in the locked position.

39. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the inner surface and the outer surface of said container is at least partially covered with microwave reflecting surface.

40. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 15, wherein at least one of the inner surface of said inner container, the outer surface of said inner container, the inner surface of said outer container, and the outer surface of said outer container is at least partially covered with microwave reflecting surface.

41. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 39, wherein said microwave reflecting surface is aluminum foil.

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42. (New) The microwavable apparatus of claim 40, wherein said microwave reflecting surface is aluminum foil.

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 4A, 4B, and 4E. Applicants respectfully request that this drawing, subject to the approval of the Examiner and Official Draftsman, be substituted for the corresponding drawing sheet originally filed in the present application and prior to allowance of the subject application. This attached sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4A-4E.

For convenience, a summary of the proposed change is included below:

Fig. 4A: Remove label "330", add labels "300", "317", and "339".

Fig. 4B: Correct label "314" to "311", add label "315".

Fig. 4E: Add labels "345" and "346".

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet